



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 1285***

*January Session, 2007*

\*       SB01285ED             032007       \*

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT CAREER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. Section 10-20a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3       (a) [(1)] Local and regional boards of education, the regional  
4       vocational-technical school system, postsecondary institutions and  
5       regional educational service centers, may [(A)] (1) in consultation with  
6       regional workforce development boards established pursuant to  
7       section 31-3k, local employers, labor organizations and community-  
8       based organizations establish career pathway programs leading to a  
9       Connecticut career certificate in accordance with this section, and [(B)]  
10      (2) enroll students in such programs based on entry criteria  
11      determined by the establishing agency. Such programs shall be  
12      approved by the Commissioner of Education and the Labor  
13      Commissioner. [after review and comment by the regional school-to-  
14      career partnership established by the Commissioner of Education  
15      pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection for the region in which  
16      the program is proposed to operate.] Applications for program  
17      approval shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education in such  
18      form and at such time as [he] the commissioner prescribes. All  
19      programs leading to a Connecticut career certificate shall provide

20 equal access for all students and necessary accommodations and  
21 support for students with disabilities.

22 [(2) The Commissioner of Education shall establish regional school-  
23 to-career partnerships. The partnerships shall include, but need not be  
24 limited to, educators, students and representatives of local and  
25 regional boards of education, postsecondary educational institutions,  
26 regional workforce development boards established pursuant to  
27 section 31-3k, business and industry and labor organizations.]

28 (b) Programs established pursuant to this section may be offered for  
29 one or more years and shall include:

30 (1) Not less than eighty hours during any year of school-based  
31 instruction which focuses on the academic, technical and  
32 employability skills outlined in the skill standards established  
33 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, workplace safety awareness  
34 and instruction in the history of the American economy and the role of  
35 labor, business and industry;

36 (2) Work-based instruction which includes worksite experience,  
37 including all major activities related to the career cluster. Such  
38 worksite experience shall: (A) Be paid, except as provided in section  
39 10-20b, as amended by this act, (B) include a planned program of job  
40 training and work experiences, including training related to  
41 preemployment and employment skills to be mastered at  
42 progressively higher levels, that are coordinated with school-based  
43 instruction, (C) include instruction, to the extent practicable, in all  
44 aspects of the industry, (D) relate to the academic, technical and  
45 employability skills outlined in the skill standards established  
46 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, (E) include, but not be limited  
47 to, on-the-job training, internships, community service and field trips,  
48 (F) be conducted in accordance with an individualized written training  
49 and mentoring plan, agreed to by the student, his parent or guardian,  
50 if the student is under eighteen years of age, the principal of the school  
51 or the chief executive officer of the agency operating the program in

52 which the student is enrolled, or the designee of such principal or chief  
53 executive officer, and the employer, and (G) be in conformance with  
54 the requirements of section 10-20d, as amended by this act; and

55 (3) Activities that ensure coordination between school-based  
56 instruction and work-based instruction, including, but not limited to,  
57 (A) career awareness and exploration opportunities, and (B)  
58 information and guidance concerning transition to postsecondary  
59 education.

60 (c) For purposes of this section, "career cluster" means a range of  
61 occupations which share a set of skills and knowledge organized  
62 under the federal career clusters endorsed by the Office of Vocational  
63 and Adult Education under the United States Department of  
64 Education. Such skills and knowledge include (1) academic and  
65 technical skills related to the type of employment and (2) general  
66 employability skills. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation  
67 with other state, regional and local agencies, business and industry  
68 and labor organizations, shall maintain a list of [state] federally  
69 recognized career clusters and skill standards for each such career  
70 cluster, along with the projected occupation growth area clusters  
71 within the state identified by labor market projections provided by the  
72 Labor Department.

73 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-20b of the general statutes is  
74 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
75 *1, 2007*):

76 (c) The employment of students in programs established pursuant  
77 to section 10-20a, as amended by this act, shall be in compliance with  
78 sections 31-23 and 31-58 and shall be paid employment, unless the  
79 Labor Commissioner, or [his] the commissioner's designee, in  
80 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, or [his] the  
81 commissioner's designee, receives and approves a written request from  
82 the principal of the school or the chief executive officer of the agency  
83 operating the program in which the student is enrolled, or the

84 designee of such principal or chief executive officer, that such  
85 employment not be paid because of worksite experiences that are  
86 generally not paid employment, such as community service activities.  
87 The terms of compensation shall be (1) negotiated between the  
88 employer and such principal or chief executive officer, or the designee  
89 of such principal or chief executive officer, (2) accepted by the student,  
90 (3) based on the nature of the work and the status of the student-  
91 worker as a student, [and] (4) reasonable for the actual work  
92 performed, and (5) in compliance with the provisions of title 31  
93 concerning the employment of minors.

94 Sec. 3. Section 10-20d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

96 (a) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Labor  
97 Commissioner and the Commissioners of Economic and Community  
98 Development and Higher Education, shall, within the limits of  
99 available appropriations, provide grants to [local and regional boards  
100 of education, the vocational-technical school system,] postsecondary  
101 institutions, regional workforce development boards, regional  
102 educational service centers and other appropriate agencies and  
103 organizations to support the development [and implementation] of  
104 educators administering programs leading to a Connecticut career  
105 certificate pursuant to section 10-20a, as amended by this act.

106 [(b) In awarding grants pursuant to this section, the Commissioner  
107 of Education shall give priority to interdistrict programs and programs  
108 operated in priority school districts, as described in section 10-266p.  
109 Grant applications shall include documentation of review and  
110 comment by the regional school-to-career partnership established by  
111 the Commissioner of Education for the region in which the program is  
112 proposed to operate.]

113 [(c)] (b) If the Commissioner of Education finds that some or all of  
114 the amount of any grant awarded pursuant to this section is used for  
115 purposes which are not in conformity with sections 10-20a to 10-20d,

116 inclusive, as amended by this act, or is used to reduce the local share of  
117 support for schools or to supplant a previous source of funding, the  
118 commissioner may require repayment of such grant to the state.

119 [(d)] (c) Each grant recipient shall submit to the Commissioner of  
120 Education, at such time and in such manner as [he] the commissioner  
121 prescribes, a biennial program evaluation report.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-20a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-20b(c)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-20d

**ED**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*